

A TERATOLOGICAL SPECIMEN OF *ARALIA HISPIDA*

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IN certain genera and species as, for instance, in several species of *Trillium*, monstrosities are of frequent occurrence¹. On the other hand most plants develop with a remarkable trueness to type and teratological forms are very uncommon. *Aralia hispida* Vent. is one of the latter class. Neither the Gray Herbarium nor the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club contains any such forms, nor has a prolonged search revealed any published records of the discovery of any such specimens in America.

Consequently, a specimen collected by Miss I.W. Anderson on the side of Rattlesnake Mt., Tyrone, Blair Co., Pa., Aug. 20, 1915, is of decided interest. It is a vigorous plant 8 dm. tall with a normal root-system and abundant normal foliage. Its inflorescence, however, is very far from normal. From a distance, instead of the round-topped umbels with white flowers or dark angular fruits, one sees the umbels, but these are crowned by tufts of green leaves. A closer examination reveals that the ovaries instead of being semi-globose urceolate as in the normal flower, are wrinkled slender clavate affairs scarcely distinguishable from the peduncles. Some of the flowers at first sight appear nearly normal except for their brownish or greenish tone and undeveloped ovaries. If, however, these are dissected, it will be seen that the sepals are in many cases normal, are short triangular lobes; that the petals are brownish and shriveled or developed into green leaves, instead of clear white oblong-lanceolate petals, 2.5 mm. long; that the filaments are dark and shriveled, 1 mm. long, instead of light-colored, 2 mm. long; that the anthers are dark yellowish brown, .75 mm. long, instead of light yellowish, 1.5 mm. long; that the stylopodium is conical, 1 mm. long, instead of 1.5 mm. long.

Many of the flowers, especially the central ones of the umbels, show, instead of this dwarfing and slight malformation, a very abnormal development. One of them has the perianth slightly foliaceous. The stamens are shrunken and abnormal as described above. From the center of the flower, instead of a stylopodium, springs a prolongation of the axis, which 4 mm. above, bears a tuft of green serrate

¹ For a summary of the recorded facts and a bibliography, see Gates, R. R.: Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. iv. 69 (1917).

normal leaves, each of the lowest being subtended by an abortive stamen. This flower illustrates phyllody of the perianth and median leafy and floral proliferation.

Another flower has its perianth green and leaf-like and the stamens similarly abnormal. From the center of the flower the axis is prolonged, bearing 4 mm. above a pair of opposite bracts, then 3 mm. above these a proliferous flower having its perianth foliaceous and bearing on the disc a tuft of green leaves, most of which subtend an abortive stamen.

Still another flower had the perianth enlarged and foliaceous and within it the same type of abortive stamens. From the center of the flower the axis is prolonged and 7 mm. above bears normal involucre bracts subtending 7 rays. These are about 4 mm. long and each bears a flower with a foliaceous perianth subtending abnormal stamens and on the center of the disc a tuft of green leaves. It is probable that dissection of more of the flowers would show still other types of abnormality, but those already described illustrate sufficiently the abnormal inflorescence of this monstrosity in *Aralia hispida*. Nowhere does the plant show any sign of an injury that might have been the cause of such an abnormal development.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

A NORTHEASTERN VARIETY OF PANICUM

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FOR several summers there has been found on the sandy shores of ponds in Plymouth County and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, a *Panicum* which seems to bridge the gap between the sections *Dichotomiflora* and *Capillaria* as these groups are treated in Hitchcock & Chase's "North American Species of Panicum." Although showing undoubted connection with *P. dichotomiflorum* Michx., it has the low, slender habit, diffuse ovoid panicles, and small, long-pedicelled spikelets, that are characteristic of *P. Tuckermanni* Fernald¹ and *P. Gattingeri* Nash. There is furthermore a tendency toward pubescence, although many specimens are glabrous. Transitional forms show distinctly the relation to the typical *P. dichotomiflorum*. Both *P. Tuck-*

¹ RHODORA, XXI, 112 (1919).